

just be able to eliminate all responsibilities. As a matter of fact, it is going to put everybody on notice that you have got to say what you are doing, and what you aren't doing. It is an idea. It is a law change to eliminate the liability problem that we have gone through the last year, at least two programs, and as Senator Warner has pointed out. There are other areas in statute, as Senator Schmit has pointed out, with the old LB 474. We have got a state aid to local subdivisions distribution formula we have never funded properly, even though the law says so. If there is any contingent or possible liability involved in these things, we can eliminate an awful lot of lawsuits against the state by this kind of statute. I hope, number one, you pass the committee amendments because I think it clarifies and eliminates the possibility of any kind of abuse.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: And, number two, pass the bill because I think it is needed for our laws.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Before recognizing Senator Hefner, the Chair announces that we had two groups in the balconies visiting. They have now since left. We had 10 fourth and fifth grade students from Antelope County in Neligh, guests of Senator Dierks; and we had 43 fourth graders from Willard School in York as guests of Senator Moore in the south balcony. Senator Hefner, please, followed by Senator Higgins, Senator Hall, and Senator Schmit.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I didn't think that I understood this bill or the amendment either, but after I get to studying it a little more, if you want to follow along, the amendment is in addition to the bill. On line 5 of the bill, after the word "Legislature", it says "except that this section shall not apply unless the appropriations bill identifies the program, service, or law for which, pursuant to this section, appropriations are not being made." And I think that does clarify the bill a little bit. As most of you know that I have introduced a bill, or I guess I could say it is a resolution or a constitutional amendment that says whenever the Legislature, whenever we mandate new or expanded programs to local government that we have to pick up the funds. We shall pay for implementing these new and expanded programs, and for the record, I would just like to ask Senator Warner if he would explain how this bill fits in with that proposal.